

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application, including new claims 13-16.

The specification is objected to because of the use of the terms “lockup” and “1M.” The specification is amended to correct typographical errors, thereby overcoming the objections.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimazaki (US 6,396,595) in view of Ohtsuka et al. (US 6,026,216). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as follows.

The present invention relates to an operational method in merging, which is not described in Shimazaki or Ohtsuka.

Applicant submits that, even if Shimazaki and Ohtsuka were to be combined, the combination of references would fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claims of the present invention. In particular, the applied references do not disclose the merging means including means for, when a desired printing condition color converting means is moved into a storage area, merging the moved desired printing condition color converting means with the output condition color converting means into a merged color converting means. The Examiner cites col. 6, lines 25-38 and col. 3, lines 40-43 as allegedly disclosing the aforementioned features of claim 1, but Applicant respectfully disagrees. The cited excerpts fail to disclose merging the moved desired printing condition color converting means with the output condition color converting means into a merged color converting means. Instead, Shimazaki discloses converting color image data in view of printing conditions. See col. 3, lines 41-42. Shimazaki also discloses a combined conversion table 42, which contains color conversion data selected from the printing condition correcting conversion table 36, the standard conversion table 38, and

the calibration conversion table 40. However, these disclosures of Shimazaki do not correspond to the means for, when a desired printing condition color converting means is moved into a storage area, merging the moved desired printing condition color converting means with the output condition color converting means into a merged color converting means.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that Ohtsuka also fails to teach or suggest a merging means for merging printing condition color converting means and output condition color converting means. The Examiner cites col. 10, line 58 – col. 11, line 4 as allegedly disclosing this feature of claim 1 of the present invention. However, the cited excerpt discloses a proof output condition lookup table 82, which is produced by selecting a photosensitive medium 28 and an image-receiving medium 32 according to given proof output conditions. To the extent that the references independently teach the presence of conversion based on print conditions and conversions based on output conditions, Applicant submits that they do not merge the data as described by claim 1. In particular, the merging means merges certain print conditions with output conditions, as the print conditions are moved to a “to-be merged” storage area. This merge permits a more timely and efficient conversion. Even assuming that the two references may be properly combined, their combination may result in a separated determination of each conversion condition. This is inefficient and is a problem of conventional techniques.

Therefore, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-12 are allowable over the prior art for at least the above-noted reasons.

With further regard to claim 2, this claim further describes a display unit for displaying an image of the storage area for storing to-be-merged print condition converting means. The

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cited display unit 22 of Shimazaki permits control to be performed, but this does not necessarily include the display of the storage areas as claimed. Furthermore, Shimazaki fails to teach or suggest means for, when the desired printing condition color converting means is moved into the displayed image of the storage area, merging the moved desired printing condition color converting means with the output condition color converting means into the merged color converting means. Instead, the display unit 22 of Shimazaki is included in an editing apparatus 12 while a color printer performs the merging. The editing apparatus 12 outputs a test chart and generates each LUT, but does not perform the merging. Hence, claim 2 is allowable for this additional reason.

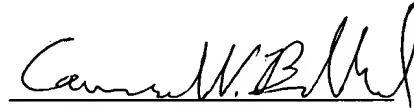
New claims 13-16 are added by the present Amendment to further define the present invention. These claims are believed to be allowable at least because of their dependence from claim 1. Also, new claim 16 is believed to allowable for reasons analogous to those presented for claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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